

HISTORICAL REVIEW

County of (Selkirk) Winnipeg
L.O.L., C. 64



1884 to 1929

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HISTORY OF (SELKIRK) WINNIPEG COUNTY LOYAL ORANGE LODGE

*Historical Review—County of (Selkirk) Winnipeg L.O.L. C. 64, 1884 to 1929
Compiled and written by R.W. Bro. A. L. Lee, D.G. Secretary and
presented at Session of the Grand Orange Lodge of Manitoba,
March 14th, 1929.*

In presenting this short Historical Review of the County of Selkirk Loyal Orange Lodge No. C. 64 (now known as the County of Winnipeg Loyal Orange Lodge No. C. 64), since its inception, I must ask you to bear with me should it at times be somewhat uninteresting, or tiresome; also, any discrepancies which may occur will, I trust, be overlooked owing to the difficulty which was experienced in obtaining data. Nevertheless, it should be of interest to every Orangeman to learn some facts regarding this County Lodge.

Although I have made a somewhat exhaustive search among the records available and have delved into Reports of the Provincial Grand Orange Lodge, it has been possible to glean but little information regarding the early days of the County Lodge, as, unfortunately, there seems to be absolutely no record regarding the Lodge's activities prior to the year 1909, and for a period covering some twenty-five years the reports of the County Lodge's activities are unavailable, consequently but little information can be given for that period previous to 1909.

In the year 1884, on April 10th, the County of Selkirk Loyal Orange Lodge C. 64 came into being. A small body of earnest Orange brethren, members of Loyal Orange Lodges Union No. 243, Pioneer No. 1307, Stonewall No. 1464 and Ulster Heroes No. 1520, having a vision of future service for a County Lodge in advancing the Principles of Orangeism in this city, applied for and obtained what was known as an Unincorporated Warrant under which the new County Lodge could operate. R.W. Bro. Sam McComb, a member of L.O.L. 1307, was the first Master of the new County Lodge, and the man who piloted the Good Ship in the days of its embarkment. Bro. McComb, who has since that time been called to do service in the Supreme Lodge in the Great Beyond, was a brother of retiring disposition, but he seems to have been endowed with strength of character and personality, in that he had the confidence and respect of his Brethren, as he served them as County Master for at least three years, and later he was elevated to the position of Deputy Grand Master of the G.O.L. of Manitoba, and served as Acting Grand Master during a portion of his occupancy of the Deputy Chair.

Bro. McComb was succeeded in the County Chair in the year 1887 by Wor. Bro. J. G. Mills, of L.O.L. 1520, who has also been called Home, and of whom no record is available, nor can any information regarding the Lodge's activities during his term of office be obtained.

The following year, 1888, our well known and much respected brother, R.W. Bro. Col. H. W. A. 'Chambre, of L.O.L. 1307, was elected to the County Chair, and piloted the good ship in a most capable manner. Later he was elected to the position of Junior Deputy Grand Master of the Provincial Lodge, and has done a great deal of profitable work for the Orange Association, especially as regards the Public School Act and its application in Manitoba.

Of the year 1889 no record is available consequently I am unable to say who occupied the County chair for that period.

In the year 1890 we find R.W. Bro. W. J. Marshall, of L.O.L. 1520, occupying the County Master's Chair. Bro. Marshall is well known to us all, and is a familiar figure in the Sessions of the Grand Orange Lodge of Manitoba, having held the office of Grand Master of this Provincial Lodge, subsequent to his term in the County Chair.

Bro. Marshall was succeeded in 1891 by R.W. Bro. J. M. Toombs, a member of L.O.L. 1464, and an editor of note, now residing at the Coast. Bro. Toombs must have had the confidence and esteem of his brethren in that he rose to the position of Grand Master of Manitoba shortly after his term of office in the County Lodge.

In the year 1892 there is no record whatever, but it is probable that our good brother, Wm. Bro. Ed. Rodgers, of L.O.L. 241, occupied the County Chair during that year. Bro. Rodgers is at present serving the cause of Orangeism at the Coast.

And now, in 1893, we find our beloved and honored brother, R.W. Bro. Wm. Connolly of L.O.L. 1520 occupying the Chair of the County Master, and there is not the slightest doubt but what Bro. Connolly gave excellent service during his tenure of office. He was also in the ranks of those who served as an officer of Grand Lodge, in the capacity of Grand Secretary.

The following year, 1894, Wor. Bro. Morris, a member of L.O.L. 1520, succeeded Bro. Connolly. Bro. Morris has since that time been called Home to the Higher Lodge.

For the year 1895 no information can be obtained.

In 1896 a member of L.O.L. 243, in the person of Wor. Bro. E. Burling, was elected to the County Chair, but of his year of office no information is available whatever.

Wor. Bro. Jno. McLellan of L.O.L. 1507, for several years local Station Master of the Canadian Pacific Railway, most ably filled the County Chair in the year 1897, and this brother was later taken from our midst by the Grim Reaper.

Then in 1898 we have Wor. Bro. Jas. Ross Warren of L.O.L. 1307, and who has since severed his connection with the Order.

Wor. Bro. Archie Robertson, a staunch member of L.O.L. 1464, was elected to the Chair of the County Lodge in 1899, and it was during his term of office that the lodge was signally honored in having the following brethren who answered the Call to their Country's Service, and served in the South African War.

A. Y. Hood (L.O.L. 243).

J. A. Gilbert (L.O.L. 243).

R. L. Lintern (L.O.L. 1520), who answered the Last Roll Call, and died in Action in 1900.

R. McKenzie (L.O.L. 1520).

J. Evans (L.O.L. 1520).

During the next year, 1900, Wor. Bro. Jas. Wallace, of L.O.L. 1307, was in charge of the destinies of the County Lodge, and has since been called to the Home above.

And the following year, 1901, Wor. Bro. Wm. Montgomery, of Stonewall L.O.L. 1464, and with whom many of our present active members are well acquainted, most ably filled the office of Worshipful County Master, and it was during his term of office that we have first record of the inauguration of new lodges in the jurisdiction of the County Lodge.

Tyndall L.O.L. 1713 and Trulon L.O.L. 1352 were instituted, Tyndall Lodge having a charter membership of twenty-eight, with Wor. Bro. J. Cressy as Worshipful Master, and Trulon with a membership of seventeen.

and with Wor. Bro. A. McMahon as Master. This Lodge has since become dormant.

Also, in that year, the first record of the names of the County Officers is available, and we find the Worshipful County Master was assisted that year by H. C. Vance as Secretary and Geo. McCord as Treasurer.

In the year 1902, our late respected and esteemed brother, R. W. Bro. Joe. Colwell, of L.O.L. 1307, who later became Deputy Grand Master of Manitoba, occupied the Chair of the County Lodge, and was assisted by the same Secretary and Treasurer as in the previous year.

During this year, Whittemouth L.O.L. 1768 was organized, with a membership of ten under the leadership of Worshipful Master W. Cousins; this Lodge surrendered its warrant a few years ago.

Alderman Thos. Sharpe, of L.O.L. 241, succeeded to the County Chair in the year 1903, with H. C. Vance as his Secretary, and J. Winram as Treasurer.

Bro. Sharpe no doubt gave splendid service while filling his term of office, as not only was he highly respected by the members of the County Lodge, and later elected to the Chair of Grand Master in the Grand Orange Lodge of Manitoba, but the citizens of Winnipeg saw fit to make him Mayor of the City of Winnipeg during a most important period in the City's growth.

It was during Bro. Sharpe's term of office that Scott Memorial L.O.L. 1795 came into being with a membership of thirty-four, and with Wor. Bro. Wm. Spence as Worshipful Master.

Our late Brother, Wor. Bro. Geo. Gardner of L.O.L. 1520, was the next County Master in the year 1904, with J. H. Carphin as Secretary and A. C. Ross as Treasurer.

St. Wor. Bro. J. R. Carphin, of L.O.L. 1795, Past Grand Lecturer of Manitoba, was selected by the Brethren as County Master in 1905 with R. Muir as Secretary, and W. Reid as Treasurer. During this year apparently four new lodges were organized, namely:—

Fort Garry L.O.L. 120 with twenty-three members and with W. T. Edgecombe in the chair.

Balmoral L.O.L. 288 with T. Dyer in the chair.

Norwood L.O.L. 1844 with ten members and with A. S. Boyd as Wor. Master.

Sentinel L.O.L. 1913 with twenty-four chartered members.

L.O.L. 288's warrant was recalled at a later date and was subsequently transferred to Fort Rouge L.O.L. 288.

The next year, 1906, R.W. Bro. W. T. Edgecombe, one of L.O.L. 120's most prominent members filled the County Chair and was held so highly in the esteem of the members of the County Lodge that he was re-elected to the position of County Master for the next two years, 1907 and 1908; subsequently becoming Grand Master of Manitoba. Bro. Edgecombe was assisted in 1906 by R. Muir as Secretary and A. S. Boyd as Treasurer; in 1907 by S. Larkin as Secretary and A. S. Boyd as Treasurer; in 1908 by W. J. Stewart as Secretary and Ed. Power as Treasurer.

It was during Bro. Edgecombe's tenure of office that four more primary lodges were organized under the County jurisdiction.

Excelsior L.O.L. 484 with a membership of thirty-eight and with A. A. Gray as Wor. Master.

Maple Leaf L.O.L. 325 having fifty chartered members and with G. H. McCready in the chair.

St. John's L.O.L. 1982 with a membership of twenty-five and with Bro. McWatters as first officer.

King Edward, now known as Selkirk L.O.L. 1931, with W. E. Linklater in the chair.

And now in 1909 for the first time, we have a fairly accurate record of the activities of the County Lodge in the form of its Minute Book, but, as neither space nor time will permit a lengthy resume of the County's achievements since that date, I will endeavour to give you only the names of the County Masters and those of the Secretary-Treasurer and make a note of the most outstanding events during the last twenty years.

In 1909 Wor. Bro. Ed. Power of L.O.L. 129, who still takes a most active interest in his Primary Lodge, was elevated to the County Chair with W. J. Reid as Secretary and S. H. Wright as Treasurer.

It was during Bro. Power's term of office that a strong petition was made to the Provincial Grand Lodge to have an Organiser for Manitoba appointed.

Fort Rouge L.O.L. 388 was instituted at this time with J. H. Wallis as Worshipful Master.

Wor. Bro. Dominion Lipsett of L.O.L. 325 succeeded Bro. Power as County Master in the year 1910 with W. Johnston as Secretary and S. H. Wright as Treasurer. It was at this time that a new Incorporated Warrant was secured for the County Lodge with Bro. Lipsett as County Master.

During this year Tyndall Hall was leased to Tyndall Lodge for ten years at \$150 per annum, Tyndall Lodge to assume payment of taxes and insurance. Also, Norwood Hall was dedicated during this year.

It was during this year that Armstrong Memorial L.O.L. 2160 was inaugurated with a membership of seventeen and with Wor. Bro. W. E. Roscoe in the Worshipful Master's Chair.

It was also during Bro. Lipsett's term of office that Mulvey Memorial L.O.L. 2077 was inaugurated with W. J. Kerr as Worshipful Master and a chartered membership of twenty-seven. This lodge later amalgamated with L.O.L. 1307.

In the year 1911 we find another prominent member of L.O.L. 129 in the County Chair in the person of Wor. Bro. F. W. Robinson, who was ably assisted by John Easton as Secretary and John Fowler as Treasurer. Bro. Robinson died very recently.

For the first time reference is made to the 12th of July in County records and as this review deals with facts as obtained from existing records no previous note is made herein of this celebration, as previous to that time the celebration had been held under the auspices of the District Lodge. In this year, the Glorious Twelfth was celebrated at the Town of Selkirk.

And now in the year 1912 we have our highly esteemed and well known brother of Norwood L.O.L. 1844, R.W. Bro. John Gault occupying the Chair of the County Lodge with John Easton as Secretary and John Fowler as Treasurer.

It was at this time that Regalia was first secured for the County Lodge officers, and several matters of material interest to the lodges comprising the County in general received special notice.

In this year the Anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne was celebrated in the City of Winnipeg.

Two new Primary Lodges were organized during Bro. Gault's regime, Golden West L.O.L. 2311 with seventeens members and with L. Dawson as Worshipful Master.

Transcona L.O.L. 2294, having a membership of thirteen, and F. McLean as chief officer.

Also Winnipeg District L.O.L. No. 2 was inaugurated during Bro. Gault's term of office with Wor. Bro. S. Larkin of L.O.L. 207 as the District Master.

D. H. McKee, better known as Dave of St. John's L.O.L. 1982, was chosen as head of the County Lodge in 1913 with S. Davidson and John Fowler as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

During this year a meeting of enthusiastic brethren was held in the home of Rev. A. Bell at Teulon and here Teulon L.O.L. 2409 came into existence with Wor. Bro. A. McMahon in the chair. We are sorry to note that this Lodge has since become dormant.

Also Bro. McKee must have had a busy year as the records show that five other lodges were organized during the year 1913.

St. Louis, later known as Petersfield L.O.L. 2430, with seventeen members and with F. G. Gavel as Wor. Master. This Lodge has been so unfortunate as to lose its warrant during the last few years.

Derry L.O.L. 2446 with a membership of twelve and with Wor. Bro. E. Partridge occupying the chair.

St. Mathews L.O.L. 2298 with thirty-one members and J. Davey in the chair. This Lodge amalgamated with L.O.L. 1982 a short while ago.

Perfection L.O.L. 2458 located apparently in Elmwood with eighteen charter members and with Wor. Bro. S. Hunter as chief officer. This Lodge became dormant during the Great War.

Weston L.O.L. 2463 with an initial membership of nineteen and J. R. Cargill as Wor. Master.

It was in the year 1913 that this County Lodge celebrated the 12th of July at Brandon and the records show that a most successful anniversary was held in that city.

A matter worthy of note is that the regular meetings of the County Lodge were changed during this year from the fifth Monday of the month to the fifth Friday, as is now the case.

The Lodge seems to have been very much alive to the political issues in Manitoba as they affected the School Laws, for during the year, considerable discussion ensued at the County Meetings regarding the existing School Laws, and a sweeping resolution condemning the Amendments to the Public School Act, known as the Caldwell Amendments, was adopted by the members of the County Lodge.

Our present Grand Master and Sovereign of British America, M.W. Bro. John Easton of L.O.L. 1795, guided the destinies of the Lodge during the year 1914, assisted by T. Fleming and John Fowler as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

During this year the brethren celebrated the 12th of July at Kenora and again the records show the celebration to have been a most successful one.

Bro. Easton proved to be so able a steward that he was re-elected to the County Chair in 1915, assisted by G. B. McCready as Secretary and the veteran, John Fowler, as Treasurer.

It was during this year that the Lodge Directory, which has grown to be an issue of some importance to the County, was first started as a little booklet, which was sold to the members at five cents per copy.

Winnipeg was this year selected as the place for holding the celebration of the Anniversary of King William's victory at the Boyne.

During the year 1915, an Honor Roll, containing some three hundred names of our hero brethren, who had taken up arms for the defence of freedom in the Great War, was unveiled by R.W. Bro. W. T. Edgecombe.

At this time the County Lodge was extremely active in matters pertaining to the School question, and for your information, I will quote a part of a resolution which was recorded in the Minute Book at that time:

"That we request the Province to pass such legislation as will make the English language that which shall be taught in Public Schools during school hours and at public expense."

The question of public school work by the government in general received very careful consideration at the Lodge's meetings during those days.

Bro. Easton, like some of his predecessors, seems to have had a busy year organizing new lodges as we find the following new Primary Lodges were instituted in 1914:

Ulster Volunteers L.O.L. 2569 with R. McNiece as Wor. Master.

Beaver L.O.L. 2597 with C. E. Jenner in the chair.

Friskdale L.O.L. 2499 with W. J. Downey as chief executive.

In the following year, 1916, Wor. Bro. R. T. Henderson of L.O.L. 2077, occupied the County Chair with W. J. Stewart as Secretary and with J. Fowler again acting as Treasurer.

During this year Carberry was chosen as the place of celebration for the Glorious Twelfth and again a most satisfactory day was enjoyed by all.

R.W. Bro. G. B. McCready of L.O.L. 325, our present Grand Secretary of Manitoba, who has given much of his time and ability to the welfare of the Orange Association, was chosen as County Master in the year 1917 with W. J. Stewart and J. Fowler as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

This seems to have been a very active year and the brethren were alive to the political issues of the day as they affected the Orange Order. The Dominion Government was most highly commended by the members of the County Lodge for its action in placing reinforcements at the front in the Great War.

Also a noteworthy matter was the visit of the Grand Master of British America, Dr. Ellis, to Winnipeg, at which time a monster meeting was held and addressed by the Doctor.

The Lodge seems to have been flourishing financially, as at that time \$600.00 worth of Victory Bonds were purchased and placed in trust by the executive officers.

Assiniboine L.O.L. 2708 was organized at this time with R. Lewis as Wor. Master.

Also at this time the Lodge was the recipient of useful and acceptable presents from R.W. Bro. John Easton, who was then Grand Master of Manitoba and who presented the Lodge with a Union Jack; from Mrs. G. B. McCready who donated an altar cushion to the Lodge. The Manitoba and Saskatchewan Bible Society presented a Bible to the Lodge to rest on the cushion presented by Mrs. McCready.

The 12th of July was celebrated at Winnipeg this year.

The year 1918 we find Wor. Bro. J. M. Thompson of L.O.L. 1530 in the County Master's Chair, with W. J. Stewart again as Secretary and H. Lewis as Treasurer.

During Bro. Thompson's tenure of office, the County Lodge was most active in civic affairs.

A resolution was adopted commending M.W. Bro. H. C. Hocken in upholding the name and principles of the Orange Order in the House of Commons.

The 12th of July was again celebrated in Winnipeg in this year.

Our late Brother, Wor. Bro. R. H. McDonald of L.O.L. 240, was County Master in the year 1919, assisted by W. J. Stewart and A. L. Lee as Secretaries and W. J. Wylie as Treasurer.

It was during this year that the By-laws of the County Lodge were adopted and became law.

The 12th of July was again held in Winnipeg in 1919.

The year 1920 Wor. Bro. R. Lewis of L.O.L. 2708 held the office of County Master with W. J. Wylie as Secretary and S. Carberry as Treasurer.

During this year the Glorious Twelfth was again held in Winnipeg.

During Bro. Lewis' term of office the Lodge was very active on the Irish question. Many interesting discussions were reported during those days.

For some time previous to this period, and very noticeably at this time, the County Lodge seemed to draw, as it were, closer to the membership in general and more interest became manifest by the rank and file in the workings and welfare of the County Lodge. A feeling of closer co-operation had become evident, which most desirable condition of affairs has continued and strengthened as the years have passed, as is evidenced by the loyalty and good fellowship extant today.

In the year 1921 our present Deputy Grand Master of Manitoba, R.W. Bro. Hugh Wallace, of L.O.L. 2708, occupied the chief executive chair with W. J. Wylie as Secretary and S. Carberry as Treasurer.

Selkirk was chosen as the place for the celebration of the Glorious Twelfth this year and a record crowd is shown to have been in attendance.

During this year Hazelridge 2221 with T. Ross as Wor. Master was organized with a membership of twenty-one.

A spirit of good fellowship among the members of the County Lodge was most prevalent during these days, due largely, no doubt, to Bro. Wallace's able leadership and the County Lodge kept itself exceptionally well informed as regarded the affairs of the Primary Lodges under its jurisdiction.

The following year, 1922, Wor. Bro. D. L. Cormack of L.O.L. 2226, was elected as County Master with C. A. Peters and J. S. Leech as Secretaries and S. Carberry as Treasurer.

The usual routine of Lodge matters seems to have been the order of the day, nothing of note transpiring, and the 12th of July was held during Bro. Cormack's year of office at the town of Selkirk.

R.W. Bro. W. J. Wylie of L.O.L. 323 succeeded Bro. Cormack to the County Chair in the year 1923 with J. S. Leech and A. L. Lee as Secretaries and S. Carberry as Treasurer.

This was a year of momentous history in the annals of the County Lodge, as, during this year the Supreme Council of the World and the Sessions of the Grand Orange Lodge of British America were held in Win-

Winnipeg and many of the Association's most prominent members from the four corners of the globe were present.

Most Wor. Bro. the Hon. W. D. McPherson being present at that time as Grand Master of British America.

A small picnic was held on July 12th in one of the local parks, while on July 18th the largest Orange procession ever held in this City paraded to River Park. This was a parade which will long be remembered by the brethren who took part and the public who witnessed it, and a most successful day was celebrated.

It was during Bro. Wyllie's tenure of office that Windsor L.O.L. 2331 was inaugurated with J. W. Wright in the chair.

In the year 1924 Wor. Bro. Alex Hume of L.O.L. 1982 was elected to the County Chair with A. L. Lee as Secretary and S. Carberry as Treasurer.

During that year a matter worthy of note was the securing of the title to Tyndall Hall after several years of effort. Also an Athletic Association in connection with the County Lodge was organized at that time.

Hon. Dr. Edwards, Grand Master of British America, visited Winnipeg during that year and gave a most inspiring address to the Winnipeg brethren assembled under the auspices of the County Lodge.

The 12th of July was celebrated in the year 1924 at Selkirk.

During the year 1925 Bro. Hume again served as County Master with J. W. Laidlaw as Secretary and S. Carberry as Treasurer.

It was during the early part of this year that an important institution of the County Lodge, "The Orange Relief Fund," was permanently established and this fund has been the means of conveying good cheer to many a deserving brother.

Stonewall was chosen as the place for celebrating the 12th of July during the year 1925.

Wor. Bro. O. E. Chapman of L.O.L. 2309 was elected as the County's chief executive officer for the year 1926 with W. J. Brown and Dr. C. H. Weagant as Secretaries and Dr. C. H. Weagant as Treasurer.

An event of importance during Bro. Chapman's term of office was a most successful banquet held in the Marlborough Hotel in honor of Sir James Craig of Ireland and his family, and those in charge of the arrangements were highly commended and deservedly so, on the success of the undertaking.

The Anniversary of the landing of King William was held at Winnipeg Beach this year.

In the year 1927 Wor. Bro. J. Earley of L.O.L. 1913 was chosen as County Master and assisted by A. L. Lee and Dr. C. H. Weagant as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Bro. Earley's year of office was a busy and noteworthy one and he worked unsparingly for the welfare of the Lodges under his control, visiting them most systematically and assisting them in every possible manner.

It was during this year that for the first time in the history of Orangemen in Manitoba the brethren were able to celebrate the twelfth of July on the grounds of an Orange Orphanage. The celebration was held on the grounds of the Protestant Orphans' Home of Manitoba, at the invitation of the Board of Directors of the Home, and on that occasion the official opening of the Home was held in honor of the day and celebration.

Hon. Dr. Edwards, the Grand Master of British America, again visited Winnipeg at this time and addressed a meeting, which had the endorsement of the County Lodge, on "The Natural Resources of Manitoba."

And now we reach the year 1928 and find our genial and faithful County Master, Wor. Bro. Jas. Black of L.O.L. 259, piloting the destinies of the County Lodge with A. L. Lee as Secretary and Dr. C. H. Weagant as Treasurer.

During the past year a great deal of important work has been accomplished under the capable leadership of County Master Black.

On July 12th, one of the most successful celebrations ever held by the County Lodge, took place at Morden.

Bro. Black has always been awake to the questions of the day as they affected the Order and has kept the members of the lodge active in civic matter. A Legislation Committee has been recently elected, and matters of interest to the members are receiving close attention, and Bro. Black, by his close personal attention to the Primary Lodges has done much to strengthen a spirit of harmony and good will amongst the members in general.

An important Resolution was adopted early in the year by which the County Lodge's name was changed from County of Selkirk L.O.L. No. C. 64 to County of Winnipeg L.O.L. No. C. 64. And again, later in the year, several amendments to the By-laws of the County Lodge were adopted, thereby making for the more efficient working of the Lodge.

On November Fifth a monster banquet was held in Winnipeg in commemoration of Guy Fawkes Day and the Gun Powder Plot.

R.W. Bro. C. A. Boyd of L.O.L. 1795 is the County Master for the present year, 1929, and is just entering on a year of activity in the affairs of the County Lodge, with J. Clark as Secretary and Dr. C. H. Weagant again Treasurer of the Lodge.

We have traced the growth of the County of Winnipeg L.O.L. No. C. 64 from having jurisdiction over four Primary Lodges in the year 1884 until at the present time, in the year 1929, the County Lodge has jurisdiction over twenty-five Primary Orange Lodges.

